

U. S. Troops Hike 110 Miles Over Desert in 22 Hours Time

First Complete Story of Record Ride Made Through Alkali
Dust and Over Mountains from Columbus Is Told—
Thirteenth Cavalry, Which Routed Villa's
Raiders, First to Carry Colors
Across Border.

Headquarters United States Punitive Expedition, Near Colonia Dublan, Chihuahua, Mexico (by wagon train to Columbus, N. M.).—Reaching here by a forced march that demonstrated the endurance of the American soldier and obviously amazed the Mexicans, several thousand United States troops, cavalry and infantry and artillery, were scattered between this point and the northern boundary of the Guerrero district, intent on the capturing or killing of Francisco Villa in the shortest possible time and exterminating the bandit band with which he raided Columbus, N. M., and slaughtered nine civilians. Troop movements and dispositions, however, it was said, were shrouded in the strictest secrecy by order of the war department.

The entry into Mexico occurred on March 15. At that moment the American troops were in the act of crossing the border.

MAJOR GENERAL FUNSTON



In command of the United States troops on the border of Mexico.

lean colors, with the standard of the Thirteenth cavalry, 200 men of which beat off Villa's raiders, despite the surprise movement of the Mexican brigands, were carried over the boundary by the color guard.

Col. Herbert J. Slocum, commanding the Thirteenth, was the first commanding officer to cross. He was followed by Maj. Thomas A. Ryan, acting chief of staff to Gen. John J. Pershing, who commands the punitive expedition.

This was column No. 1, consisting of infantry, artillery and cavalry, and, burdened with heavy wagon trains, it moved rather slowly and camped the first night at Palomas, a filthy village of adobe huts and "go-downs," seven miles below the boundary, south of Columbus.

Column No. 2 Crosses.

Column No. 2 entered Mexico from Culberson's ranch, 51 miles south of Hachita, Ariz. Gen. Pershing, who had accompanied the first column part of the way to Palomas, returned to Columbus the same afternoon, raced to Culberson's in an automobile, and, taking command of the second, or "flying column," drove it more than 110 miles over the desert of Chihuahua in 22 hours, actual marching time. Official records show that spies dotted the route of the first column, but the men of the second had forged their way 50 miles into the country before a single native was seen; and, to the surprise of the Mexicans, reached here exactly 42 hours after crossing the border.

In this column every man was mounted, and the lumbering wagon trains were supplanted by army mules, which made the entire distance under heavy packs, with the loss of only three of their number.

Battery B of the Sixth field artillery, commanded by Capt. Edgar H. Yule and Lieut. Charles P. George, formed a unit of the flying column. While the cavalry traversed trails through the "mal pais," or "bad country," of the Sierra Madre mountains, 6,000 to 8,000 feet high, the battery, incumbered by its ambulances and the field wireless equipment, traveled the valley roads, longer by 18 miles. Nevertheless, it reached camp only an hour and a half behind the cavalry, without the loss of a mule or a horse and not a sore foot among the animals.

Officers declared this exploit would

FOUR DISABLED SOLDIERS

BROUGHT TO COLUMBUS

Columbus, N. M.—Transport trucks returning here from Gen. Pershing's headquarters brought four soldiers. Only two of the men were seriously injured and there were taken on litters to Fort Bliss, Tex. F. M. Roberts, a private in Company C, Fourth field artillery, was suffering from pneumonia, and William Brooks, a horse-shoer in Troop M, Eleventh cavalry, was badly crushed in a fall from his horse at Colonia Diaz. The other men were suffering from minor diseases.

COLUMBUS MECCA OF

ADVENTURERS AND HOBOES
Columbus, N. M.—With the dispatch from here of an American expedition to capture Villa, Columbus has become a town of hoboes as well as a mecca of soldiers of fortune. As a result it was found necessary to swear to several deputy sheriffs to assist in guarding property in the community.

Military authorities also are discouraging adventurers, fearing that they may interrupt the work of the troops at the expeditionary base here. Many of these men have come to the border

long stand as a record of speed and endurance.

The Thirteenth cavalry, because of its accomplishment in driving Villa's greatly superior numbers out of Columbus after a brief engagement, was given first place in the first column. Muster rolls of the Villa command, found after he passed through going southward, showed that he made the raid on Columbus with 583 men. Ravaging in anger after his defeat, deserters reported that the bandit chieftain killed five of his officers and men as they fled. There were 293 in his command when he retreated through Colonia Dublan. The Thirteenth United States cavalry accounted for the rest.

Maj. Frank Tompkins, who took 59 men of his squadron and drove the bandits 15 miles into Mexico after they had crossed the border, commanded the advance guard. The rest of the cavalry, under Maj. Elmer Lindsey, followed. Then came the mountain and field guns, next the "dough boys" of the infantry regiments and last the wagon trains, field hospital and sanitary equipment and field wireless. The orders were for every man to "travel light."

Trains Long and Heavy.
Officers and men were not permitted to carry much more than the clothing and equipment upon their persons. The trains, nevertheless, were long and heavy. Vast quantities of ammunition for all types of arms, including the machine guns of the cavalry and infantry, accounted for the most of the weight. Rations were carried for only five days. The rations were bacon, hard tack and coffee.

The column stretched out a length of a mile and a half. From Columbus, three miles north of the boundary line, only a vast cloud of dust, whipped to a great height by a high wind, could be seen, and two hours later, when the troops began making camp, the men were thickly powdered from head to foot by grayish-white coatings of pulverized lava.

The sense of smell detected Palomas long before its collection of brown, unburned huts of mud and cobblestones came into view. The odors were of stock yards, abattoirs and tanneries. Closer, there was a sick, that of unwashed humanity and soiled raiment, ragged remnants of which lay strewn about with the remains of slaughtered cattle that had furnished feasts for Villa and his men during their brief stop at Palomas and rations for the Carranza troops, who were there both before and after the bandit's brief sojourn in the village.

The American troops camped near a series of lakes formed by the Mimbres river, a stream which, like a number of others in the southwest, disappears in its course through Mexico.

Soldier Tells of Men's Hardships in Mexico

El Paso, Tex.—The first story of the hardships suffered by the American soldiers in their march across the Chihuahua desert was told here by Sgt. W. P. Harrison of the Thirteenth cavalry, when propped up in bed in the hospital where he was taken on his arrival.

"We went in first," he said, "There was not any cheering. That stuff is bunk. Everybody was serious and much was said. We all started off at a trot and at once the dust began to get thick. There wasn't any air and the dust hung over the head."

Alkali in Their Eyes.
"The alkali got into our eyes and down our throats; it sifted into our shoes and through our clothes. The sun was awful hot. We put wet handkerchiefs in our hats, but it did not help much. Most of the fellows rode along with their eyes shut to keep out the dust. Many of the boys were half blind by noon."

"My eyes began to itch. Then they felt as big as kettles and everything got dark. Then the headache would begin."

"You should have seen the faces of the men after an hour or two. They were all dust and sweat."

"When we got to Las Palomas we went right through the streets. There was no one in the whole town. At the next town, Boca Grandes, there were three people sitting in the sun. The rest of the place was like a grave."

Military leaders denied persistent rumors of an engagement in which American soldiers were said to have been wounded, it being asserted that the cases received were the first of any kind in the command. An additional field hospital corps and an ambulance company have arrived in Columbus and it is believed it will be sent to join the expeditionary column shortly.

Reports received indicated that Lieut. T. S. Bowen of the aeroplane corps, who was injured near Casas Grandes, was recovering.

In the hope that they may be allowed either to enlist in regiments bound for Mexico or to accompany the troops as civilians.

Many letters requesting permission to join the American forces in Mexico have been received at military headquarters.

All Around.
"Smith got it going and coming in the meeting last night."

"How so?"

"He was squarely attacked and roundly denounced."

BRIG. GEN. J. J. PERSHING



Placed in command of troops to capture Villa and his band.

"Just outside of Boca Grandes we found the body of a cowboy who had been killed by Villa on his way to Columbus."

"Later some of the Sixteenth tried to bury him. The ground was too hard, so they just piled rocks on the body."

"During the marches the boys stopped 10 minutes every hour for rest. When the word was given they just dropped in their tracks into the road. No stop was made for dinner. It was just one steady hike. The infantry was strung out so that the detachments were a day's march apart. That is the way they are going now."

"We got no water from Columbus to Boca Grandes, 31 miles. The water in my canteen got so hot that I could hardly drink it. Most of it I poured on my head to stop the headache."

"Do you know how much stuff a 'dough boy' (infantryman) has to carry? Well, it's about 50 pounds. Just as soon as they sat down, off would come their shoes. The gritty road cut their shoes to bits, and the alkali made their feet swell and blister. I saw some of them having a fine time getting their shoes back on their feet."

"We passed through Colonia Diaz, one of the Mormon settlements. There was no one around. Cherry trees were blooming and the alfalfa was knee deep. The roofs of the houses were burned and the windows broken. We got some water out of an irrigation ditch. That is what fixed me."

"We were fed pretty well. Hard-tack and canned 'willie'—that's corn beef. Sometimes a little bacon. Once I copped a war baby—that's what we call soft bread."

"There are a lot of fellows who are sick, but they are afraid they will be sent out, so they hold on."

Note Saved Aviator from Death in Mexico

Columbus, N. M.—Lieut. Edgar S. Gorrell of the United States aero corps, who was missing several days, was found three miles south of Ascension by a motor truck train under Lieut. J. L. Parkinson of the Twentieth infantry, according to reports made to military headquarters here. Lieut. Gorrell was uninjured, but was out of gasoline and had lost his way.

Lieut. Gorrell had been alone for 48 hours in the middle of a sandswamp, uninhabited plateau on the borders of Lake Frederick, but suffered only slightly from exposure to the sun. His plane was intact. With the receipt of this report all of the eight army aviators who left here to fly to Casas Grandes have been accounted for.

Lost Sight of Other Planes.

The flyer said that shortly after the start he lost sight of the other planes and missed his way. After flying for miles over the surrounding country in an effort to determine his whereabouts he was forced to alight on the plateau because of a leaking fuel tank. The gasoline oozed away and he was unable to find the leak in the darkness.

There were no signs of human habitation and no vegetation on the height except burned clumps of bunch grass. He finally made his way to a recently abandoned American camping place on the wagon trail about six miles southeast. There he placed a note, telling of his whereabouts and condition, on a stick which he drove firmly in the ground near the trail. Being unwilling to leave his plane unprotected, he made his way back to the lake with the realization that if he attempted to find a village he probably would wander in the hills at the risk of encountering bandits or wild animals. He said he was confident that his note would be found before his supply of three days' rations gave out.

Her Idea of It.
His Wife: I just know my new dress doesn't look at all neat and stylish.

Her Husband: What makes you think so?

His Wife: Because it is too comfortable.

Up-to-Date Kid.

His Mother: When your father comes home I'm going to tell him all about this, and get him to whip you.

Tommy: Ah! what's the use of dragging him into this affair?

Two of a Kind.
"Do you know," said the giddy young maid, "that I don't believe I could ever learn to love a man?"

"Our ideas seem inclined to shoot the same chute," rejoined the sarcastic youth. "I'm positive that I couldn't, either."

Not Flattering.
He: But doesn't my devotion arouse in you some feeling for me?"

She: Oh, yes; the sort of feeling one takes a tonic for in the spring."

—Boston Transcript.

GOVERNOR'S BOOM HAS FINE CHANCE

MAJOR SURE THAT HE WILL GET
STRONG SUPPORT IN
CONVENTION.

CAMPAIGN IS TO BE PUSHED

Thinks Iowa, Arkansas, Kansas and
Oklahoma Almost Sure, and Re-
gards the Far West as
Favorable.

Jefferson City.
In spite of the tart and acrimonious features incident to his obtaining the endorsement of the Missouri state convention for the vice presidential nomination, Governor Elliott W. Major is smiling and full of optimism in discussing his chances for the nomination in the Democratic National convention at St. Louis in June.

The governor says that the states adjoining Missouri are the most favorable to him.

He says that the Iowa delegation of 26 will be his without a contest, as his is the only name on the official ballot.

There is no doubt that he will obtain the Arkansas delegation, he says, and the same is true of Kansas, where a number of counties which have elected delegates have instructed for him. In Oklahoma, Governor Major says the sentiment is distinctly in his favor.

The governor says that he intends to push his campaign vigorously. The campaign committee of his friends, of which Judge W. W. Graves of the supreme court is chairman and A. Z. Patterson is secretary, is in touch with the situation in all of the southern and eastern states.

Boy Wanted as Murderer.

James Spencer, alias James Gleason, who is serving a two-year term in the Booneville reform school for burglary, was turned over to the Minnesota authorities to be taken back to Minneapolis to answer to the charge of murder in the first degree.

He is but 18 years old and is supposed to have been connected with several street car hold-ups in Minneapolis and many other crimes of like nature in other cities.

His history, as related by the Minnesota officers who came after him, reads like a chapter from a dime novel. Two other young men, Carl Swanson 19, and Ray Hawes, 26, are implicated with Spencer.

Hawes entered a plea of guilty to the murder of Godfrey Carlson, a Minneapolis butcher, who was shot and killed when he resisted the robbery of his place last October. The slayer is now serving a life sentence in the Stillwater penitentiary.

Swanson is in jail in Minneapolis, where a plea of insanity has been entered as a defense. Swanson and Hawes were arrested in Chicago when planning a robbery, but the latter escaped after he was under arrest and was not caught again until some time later.

To See Board.

A big delegation of St. Louis men is here to discuss the equalization of taxable values with the state board.

That there can be no immediate result is conceded, for, under the laws, there is no chance to go behind the returns as filed by the county assessors, but it is hoped that there may be results in the future in the reforming of the revenue and taxation code of the state.

The glaring deficiencies of the present system are apparent in the fact that the entire burden of the support of the state government falls upon the city of St. Louis, Jackson county and 17 other counties. All of the other counties draw each year out of the state treasury much more money than they pay in.

April 7 is Arbor Day.

Governor Major has issued a proclamation setting aside Friday, April 7, as "Arbor Day," and calling upon the schools of Missouri to suitably observe the day in the beautification of grounds by the planting of trees and flowers and shrubbery.

Howard A. Gass, state superintendent of education will suggest to the public schools the character of program to render.

Major is Indorsed.

At the recent convention of Democrats in St. Joseph to choose delegates to the national convention in June Governor Major was indorsed for the vice presidency by an overwhelming vote. E. F. Goltra was re-elected as chairman of the state Democratic committee.

Ten-Year Fugitive Captured.

John Franklin, a ninety-nine year convict, who with Teddy Daly, serving fifty years, made a sensational escape from the officers in Jasper county at Carthage January 18, 1908, has been arrested at Minot, N. D., according to Warden McClung. Ed Hardin, a penitentiary officer, has gone after Franklin.

Franklin and Daly escaped when they were being taken from the penitentiary to Joplin to testify in a case where a Joplin policeman had been killed.

Vandiver Withdraws.
Willard D. Vandiver, assistant United States treasurer at St. Louis, resigned as the folk candidate for the Missouri gubernatorial nomination, announced his withdrawal from the race. He explained his action by a denunciation of the stand taken by the Democratic state convention at St. Joseph, which indorsed Gov. Major for the Democratic vice presidential nomination. In some quarters the idea is advanced that Mr. Vandiver has withdrawn in the hope that Hon. Joseph W. Folk will be a candidate.

Missouri as Pearl Producer.

That Missouri is a pearl producing state is probably only known to pearl button manufacturers, jewelers who make a specialty of purchasing such gems, mussel diggers, pearl fishermen and a few others well versed in the mussel resources of Missouri. This information comes in a bulletin from the office of John T. Fitzpatrick, the state commissioner of labor statistics.

It was a difficult matter to secure reliable information on the output of mussel shells and the pearls they yielded, but such information which is at hand is to the effect that 841 Missouri mussel diggers and pearl hunters earned \$68,062 as a result of the work last year. Of this portion \$18,358 is allowed for the pearls that were found in the mussel shells, and \$49,704 for the shells after they had been cleaned and were ready to send to the factories to be made into pearl buttons. The quantity of shells marketed was 2,957 tons, some of which came from the Mississippi river north of its confluence with the Missouri, and some from the Osage, Meramec, Bourbeuse, Marais des Cygnes, St. Francis, Black, White, Current, Gasconade, Platte, Grand, Chariton, Caston and other streams of north and south Missouri. It was found a difficult matter to separate Missouri's portion of pearls and shells from that which belonged to the states of Arkansas and Kansas, and the figures herewith submitted must be accepted only as estimates.

Bank Petitions Filed.
The recent convention in St. Joseph gave all the land bank advocates from various sections of the state an opportunity to become acquainted. Col. Fred D. Gardner of St. Louis, the author of the Missouri Land Bank Act, and who is spending all his spare time explaining and advocating this proposition, addressed a meeting of those interested.

A survey of the situation revealed that 25,000 voters of the state have signed initiative petitions which is to give the proposed amendment life and activity. There are now in circulation more than 2,000 petitions, and each mail brings in more to the secretary of the state committee. The law requires the signatures of five per cent of the voters for judge of the supreme court at the last election, which means the votes cast for all nominees, and not more than eight per cent. It is figured 35,000 names are all that is needed. The indications are that there will be 50,000 signatures on hand by April 1, with more to come in daily.

Post-Card Primary.
A post-card "elimination" primary recently held in Lincoln county settles the state senatorship in the eleventh district made of Audrain, Lincoln and Pike counties. This is the district represented in the last two sessions of the legislature by Robert D. Rogers of Mexico, Audrain county.

Under the unwritten law of rotation prevailing in the district it was Lincoln county's time to put forward a candidate, who as the district is Democratic, will be elected in November. Jesse J. Duncan, who represented Lincoln in the lower house of the last assembly and J. D. Creech were the candidates.

By mutual agreement it was decided to leave the result to a post-card primary under rules prescribed by friends of both contestants. The result was a majority of 57 for Duncan out of a total vote of nearly 1,200 cast.

State Factory Closed Down.

Owing to his inability to obtain sisal fiber from Mexico for the manufacture of binding twine, Warden McClung has been forced to close down the prison twine plant, which has been in operation since the days of the Dockery administration.

Twine has advanced from 7 to 9 cents a pound and a general shortage all over the country is expected. No one can say when shipments will be renewed from Mexico, badly as the growers there need American money.

The legislature did not provide sufficient money to enable the warden to go on the market and purchase a big supply of the fiber when it could have been obtained at an advantageous figure, and as a result of this policy the state stands to lose a large sum of money. This would be a particularly good time to run the plant as the men are mostly idle and the debts are continually piling up against the institution.

The warden says he has about 70 carloads of twine on hand, which will be sold to farmers at the cost of production, and when this supply is exhausted it is not known when the next shipment will be ready.

New Rates Protested.
Two factions from St. Louis appeared before the public service commission wrangling about the new water rates in that city. The water commissioner and his attorney seek to put in force a lower rate than is at present in use, and the civic league is fighting to maintain the old rates.

Drug Seller Convicted.
J. H. Klein, a teamster, was sentenced to six months in jail by Judge Van Valkenburg in the federal court when he pleaded guilty to a charge of carrying drugs into the state prison.

Klein's arrest was the result of a confession in Detroit of a former convict arrested by the government on a charge of illegally dealing in narcotics in which Klein was named.

More than 3,000 tablets of a narcotic drug have been seized by the officials since the revelations of one week ago.

Postmaster Gets Four Months.
John Cramer, former postmaster at Sandy Hook, Mo., entered a plea of guilty in the United States district court to embezzling \$1,063 of the government's money while postmaster, and was sentenced to four months.

Name Goes on Oregon Ballot.
Governor Major has filed with the secretary of state of Oregon the request that his name be placed on the Democratic ballot as a candidate for vice president. Other states are asking information about our governor.

THE EUROPEAN WAR A YEAR AGO THIS WEEK

March 27, 1915.
French captured summit of Hartmannswillerkopf.
Violent fighting in the Carpathians.
Austrians made gains in Bukovina.
U. S. battleship Alabama sent to Norfolk to keep Prinz Eitel Friedrich from leaving.
German aviators dropped bombs on Calais and Dunkirk.

March 28, 1915.
Russians broke into Hungary and attacked Lupkow and Uszok passes.
British liner Falaba sunk by German submarine; 110 lost.
British steamer Agulla torpedoed by Germans; 26 lost.
Russians bombarded Bosphorus forts and allies shelled Dardanelles forts.
More air bombs dropped on Calais.

March 29, 1915.
French pressed Germans hard in Champagne.
Germans again shelled Reims.
Austrians made gains at several points.
Dutch steamer Amstel blown up by mine.

Attack on Bosphorus and Dardanelles continued.
German Baltic fleet out.

March 30, 1915.
Russians stormed mountain crests in Carpathians.
Austrians began big drive across Bukovina.
Turkish seaplane dropped bombs on British warship near Dardanelles.
Turkish government promised to protect Christians at Urumiah.

March 31, 1915.
Germans bombarded Libau.
Russians fought way down slope of Carpathians into Hungary.
German army corps cut to pieces in North Poland.

British steamers Flaminian and Crown of Castile sunk by submarines.

German soldiers near Thourout, Belgium, killed by bombs from aeroplanes.
German airmen raided Ostrolenka, Russia.

King George gave up liquor in royal household.

April 1, 1915.
French occupied Fey-en-Haye.
Russians began lively offensive in Central Poland, but were repulsed by Austrians near Inowloz on the Pilica.

Germans checked Russians at Rawa river.
British took Aus, German West Africa.
British vessels and airmen shelled Zeebrugge and Hoboken.

German submarines sank a British and a French steamer; 30 lost.

April 2, 1915.
Heavy artillery fighting between the Meuse and Moselle.
Russians took offensive along entire front.

Moorish rebels occupied Fez and Mekines.
German submarines destroyed several vessels.

Allied aviators made numerous raids on Germans on west front.
American sanitary experts sailed to fight typhus in Serbia.

INTERESTING BITS

New discoveries of petroleum have been made in Argentina.

In Sumatra the horn of the rhinoceros is esteemed as a cure for poison, and for that reason is made into drinking cups.

London's exports to the United States for November were more than \$14,574,000, as against less than \$12,000,000 for October.

Gold-mining companies in South Africa are experimenting with blasting by electricity with a view to minimizing the fine dust, which is regarded as the chief cause of miners' phthisis.

In Serbia every grown man can claim five acres of land from the government, which is exempt from all claims of debt.

A Philadelphia surgeon is combating diseases peculiar to certain races by transfusing to patients blood from members of other races that seem immune to the maladies.

A miner lowered into a subterranean cavern opened by a miner's blast at Volcano, Nev., some time ago, was unable to discover the ends of the fissure. Stones dropped through the opening could be heard bounding from wall to wall, but there was no sound indicating that they reached the bottom. Sparkling stalactites on the sides of the cavern were revealed by lights lowered through the opening.

The Mississippi river carries more than 1,000,000 tons of material to the Gulf of Mexico every day.

For Oiling Shafts.
There is danger in the oiling of shafts. Even though the machinery is stopped, someone is likely to start it before the worker is through with his task. This element of danger is removed through the invention of an oiler, which may be used while the worker stands on the floor, thus obviating the necessity of going among running belts, pulleys and shafts, possibly on a rickety ladder.

Name Goes on Oregon Ballot.
Governor Major has filed with the secretary of state of Oregon the request that his name be placed on the Democratic ballot as a candidate for vice president. Other states are asking information about our governor.

"YOU TOLD ME THE TRUTH AND I WANT THE PEOPLE TO KNOW IT"

The following unsolicited letter has been received from Mr. J. F. Ward of Donalds, Alberta. It is a plain statement of conditions as Mr. Ward has found them:

"It is with pleasure I drop a line to you. We had a good year. Off of 65 acres, oats and wheat, I got over 2,500 bushels of wheat and oats. Oats went here from 50 to 100 bushels per acre, and wheat from 25 to 52 per acre. Just see me being here one year and have over 700 bushels of wheat. It is now over \$1.00 per bushel. Oats is 42 cents, and going up. You told me the truth, and I want the people of Toledo to know it. Hogs are 8 1/2 cents; cattle are high. Canada is good enough for me. I have 5 good horses. I sold 2 good colts, 2 cows and 18 head of hogs and killed 2. I have 6 hogs left. I got 400 bushels of potatoes off an acre and a good garden last summer, fine celery and good onions. One neighbor had over 1,200 bushels of wheat, and sold over \$700 of hogs and 2,000 bushels of oats. This is a great country. If you should tell the people of Toledo of this it would get some of them thinking. The soil is a rich black loam, and a pleasure to work it."

"We have a good farm. We have a flowing well with soft water. It is the best water in the country. Some people think they got to go to war when they come out here. They need not be afraid of war. There is no war tax on land; only school tax, \$12.00 on 160 acres, and road tax of two days with your team. I tell you the truth, there is no land in or around Toledo as good as our land here in Alberta. If anybody wants to write us, give them our address."

"We have had nice weather. We have had it quite cold for one week, but no rain and sleet, and the sun shines nearly every day, and it is hot in the sun. Coal is \$2.25 per ton. The people are very nice and